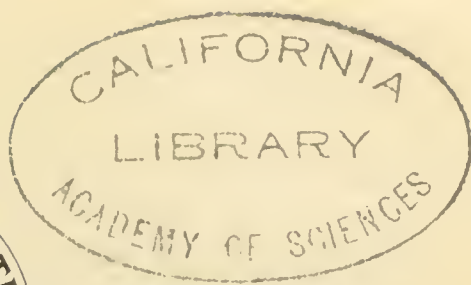


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# THE

MONTHLY



# GULL

BULLETIN

VOLUME 7,

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER, 1925

NUMBER 9

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 10th inst., in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

The feature of the evening will consist of a talk by Mr. H. W. Carriger, long time member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and a former president thereof, who has kindly consented to tell us about the "Nesting Habits of, and Personal Experiences with, Various Birds of the San Francisco Bay Region." Visitors will be made welcome.



**SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, September 13th, to Baumberg Station, on the Alvarado Branch, a short distance below Mt. Eden, for the purpose of observing waders, shore birds and the earlier ducks. The lists on this trip run from thirty to thirty-five interesting species, including avocets and stilts.

Take Southern Pacific ferry leaving San Francisco at 8:40 a. m. East Bay members may take train at First St. and Broadway, Oakland, at 9:15 a. m. Purchase round trip ticket to Baumberg, about \$1.10 from San Francisco or about 70c from Oakland. Allow ample time to purchase tickets. Return train will leave Mt. Eden at 4:23 p. m., reaching San Francisco at 5:30 p. m. Bring lunch and canteens.

The party will leave club house at Baumberg, about one-quarter mile west of the station, at 10:00 a. m. This may be reached by automobile *via* the highway from San Lorenzo to Mt. Eden and Alvarado, turning off toward the bay about three-quarters of a mile below Mt. Eden four corners. Or, otherwise, from car line at Haywards, *via* the road to Mt. Eden and thence as above.



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUGUST MEETING:** The one-hundred-third regular meeting of the Association was held on August 13th, in the Technical Room of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Kibbe, Acting Secretary; eight members and thirteen guests present.

The vacation accounts were opened by Dr. E. Goodman, who told of the bird-like humanity encountered at Mather and Hetch Hetchy. Mr. Lastreto then told of his Colombian trip and dwelt at some length upon the egret

feathers which he found displayed for sale in numerous shops in Panama and Colon. His efforts to secure information as to the sources from which these were derived were baffled by vague statements to the effect that the birds had not been killed, but the feathers were gathered from around the nests; that the birds were being farmed, and that the "farms" were located "in the interior valleys," etc. The speaker suggested that Panama should be petitioned to pattern after the United States in endeavoring to put a stop to the inevitable slaughter of the adult birds and the consequent starvation of the nestlings and to make the traffic in the plumes illegal, and he further named the National Association of Audubon Societies as the most appropriate agency through which such negotiations might be undertaken. President Kibbe expressed his conviction that a resolution to such effect would meet with prompt approval by the membership.

Mr. Parry described the humorous phases of the June trip to Howell Mountain. He was followed by Mr. Cliff, who told of his interest in bird photography and of finding a pair of linnets working on a nest at China Camp, on the Tiburon peninsula, on August 9th.

Miss Olive Burroughs told of birds observed in the high country adjacent to the Yosemite Valley; of juncos charging a robin which ventured too close to their nest; of a western tanager helping himself to a drink from her coffee saucer; of a gull and an eagle soaring aloft in close proximity; of Townsend solitaires, wood pewees and evening grosbeaks and, especially, of a white-crowned sparrow found in full song at Booth Lake. Miss Burroughs also referred to her trip of 1924 to Fallen Leaf Lake, where she found American mergansers sunning themselves on a log.

Mrs. Kibbe described a back-yard tragedy which followed the frightening, by a careless neighbor, of a towhee family, causing five fledglings to leave the nest, to which none was able to return. She told of the solicitude of the parents and of their efforts to herd the young in safety and of their speedy disappearance. She also recorded the bathing antics of an Anna hummer, which not only flew through the spray of the garden hose, but proceeded thereafter to soak himself in a shallow pool of water.

The meeting was concluded with the exhibition of a nest of the Baltimore oriole, with one of its eggs, brought from Bellefonte, Penna. in July last. The nest has since been deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California.

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### "PLENTY OF GAME BIRDS"

Under the above title, an editorial in the *San Francisco Bulletin* of Sept. 1, 1925, reads as follows:

"A report based on the observations of thousands of persons in all parts of the United States and Canada, issued by the Department of Agriculture, says there is a noticeable increase in game birds all over the territory covered. This is due to restrictive laws limiting the number that may be taken that were enacted by Congress, and in many of the states and to the shortening of the season in which these birds might be killed. There is still much to be done to still further protect feathered creatures and there seems to be a disposition among the several commonwealths to take the necessary steps."

The remainder of the article deals with the protection of game fishes. The above quotation is cited because of its title and implications, as illustrating an attitude of mind which is well nigh omniprevalent throughout the country. It is undoubtedly true that the Migratory Bird Treaty concluded with Great Britain in 1916, as made effective by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918, has already resulted in notable increases in the numbers of game birds, but in congratulating ourselves upon this outcome, we are in danger of overlooking the fact that **Protection, pure and simple, constitutes only one phase of Conservation.** Protection is essential, but it is futile without **SUSTENANCE.** The elements of the problem are stated admirably in the following extract from Sec. 10 of the Sportsmen's Platform, adopted at the Eleventh National Conference of the American Game Protective and Propagation Association in December last:

"Conservation consists of consuming only the excess, of keeping the principal intact and enjoying the interest. Those who demand prohibition of such enjoyment are giving counsel of miserliness. Game cannot be stored like gold; it must live, and to live it must be fed. There is the essence of the problem: How much game can we feed?

"The maximum benefit for all lies in producing all the game we can. This is **CONSTRUCTIVE** administration. Then let us consume no more than the yearly increase. That is **CONSERVATIVE** administration.

"The two processes constitute **CONSTRUCTIVE CONSERVATION**, which is purely a biological and economic problem into which mere sentiment does not enter. It is a problem for trained specialists, who must be furnished with funds to meet expenses, with authority to enforce their findings, and who must be permitted a certain range of discretion to compensate for varying conditions."

We now have ample provisions in the law, and authority vested in a fully competent department of the government for a unified control which can operate in recognition of different and fluctuating conditions throughout the entire range of our migratory birds. Even with grotesquely inadequate funds for the enforcement of protective regulations, we have found that the birds have been increasing in numbers, but along with this condition, the **Areas of Suitable Habitat for Resting, Feeding and Breeding Grounds have been decreasing in greater proportions.** **BIRDS** increasing; **SUSTENANCE** decreasing.

The Migratory Bird Refuge Law, known as H. R. 745 in the last Congress offered a remedy for this situation which was acceptable to a large majority of both branches and to an overwhelming majority of sportsmen's organizations, scientists, state game authorities, conservationists and Audubon societies. It authorized the acquisition of suitable and properly distributed areas for the purposes just mentioned and provided for their administration and operation through funds derived from Federal hunting licenses to be issued at the rate of one dollar per year. It did not hamper any existing organization in the performance of any duty or the exercise of any authority now possessed, but it *did* formulate a plan and provide the machinery and the income for an immediate, rational and business-like effort to counteract, throughout the country, the damage resulting from a multitude of drainage developments, every one of which has exercised a harmful effect upon the welfare of our migratory water birds. It passed the House by a large majority and would have passed the Senate even more decisively, but was crowded out in the closing days of the session.



## THE GULL

In the August number of the GULL was shown the support accorded to this measure by the President's Conference on Outdoor Recreation. A similar bill will be introduced at the coming session of Congress. The program is vitally necessary for the maintenance of our migratory birds. It is sound from every standpoint. It will surely be adopted one day, and the sooner, the better. It behooves every bird lover, every conservationist, every sportsman, to contribute some personal service toward this happy consummation.

A. S. KIBBE.

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**AUGUST FIELD TRIP** was taken on Sunday, August 16th, to Alpine, Lagunitas and Phoenix Lakes. Starting from Fairfax, the old Bolinas grade was followed to Bon Tempe, where lunch was eaten. After a brief visit to the head of Alpine Lake, near Liberty, the creek was retraced to Lagunitas Lake, where some of the party loitered at the dam while others made the circuit of the lake over the ever fascinating trail. The party was broken up and returned to the railroad at Ross piecemeal, skirting Phoenix Lake on the way.

The day was delightful, with a bright sun overhead, tempered by a light fog and northwesterly wind. The list of birds was interesting although many familiar ones were missing and all were very quiet. The most notable feature was furnished by the western tanagers of both sexes which were met at numerous points along the route. Western flycatchers were found everywhere. A lone Brandt cormorant was lunching on Alpine Lake; a pied-billed grebe on Lagunitas, with two ducks, (female pintails?).

Birds encountered on the Bay were Western, California, Heermann and Bonaparte gulls. Elsewhere: Pied-billed grebe, Brandt cormorant, pintail(?), kildeer and mourning dove; turkey vulture, sparrow hawk, kingfisher, California woodpecker, Anna and Allen hummers; western flycatcher, California jay, crow and Brewer blackbird; purple finch, linnet, green-backed goldfinch, song sparrow, San Francisco and California towhees; western tanager, cliff and barn swallows, yellow and pileolated warblers; creeper, plain titmouse, chickadee, bush and wren-tits. Thirty-five species.

Members in attendance were Mesdemoiselles Bastin, Cohen, Harcourt, Nienburg, Paroni and Sterne; Mesdames Kibbe, Myer and Parry; Messrs. Gruening, Kibbe, Myer and Parry. As guests, Miss Engebretsen, Miss Parry and Scouts Edmond Wagner and Felix Juda. Thirteen members and four guests.

A. S. KIBBE.

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